

To Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1070 without my signature.

I respect the author's intent to address the reasonable issue of allowing local community colleges to charge students for the costs of replacing or repairing instructional equipment that has been lost or damaged. The ability to recoup such costs encourages personal responsibility and the exercise of care in using valuable equipment. However, this bill would allow community colleges to assess fees as a condition of enrollment in a course or courses, with no limit on the amount that could be charged.

I am concerned that, depending on the level of fees and the number of courses in which they are charged, this bill could deter some promising students of limited means from choosing to pursue a course of study that requires the use of costly instructional equipment. As a result, this bill could have a negative impact on the number of students who choose to enter the important career fields such as science, medicine, or nursing.

I encourage the Legislature to work with my Administration in crafting legislation that avoids these unintended consequences.

Therefore, in its current form, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger